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Lucha en China PARTE 4 12

# 1%'s NATO: OUT OF CHICAGO

**By Eric Struch**
**Chicago**

Despite the fear-mongering and violence baiting, the momentum behind the anti-NATO protests in Chicago May 20 continues to grow. Thousands are scheduled to travel from around the U.S. and the world to participate in opposing NATO's support of the 1%, including Occupy Wall Street activists.

The police used the 3,000-strong May Day march for their plans to threaten repression and violence. At least four helicopters in the air and riot cops with body armor, boots, bats and helmets were out in force on May 1, despite the fact that many families with small children were in attendance.

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In the corporate media, the only groups that are allowed to be portrayed as the instigators of violence at protests are anarchist youth, especially if they identify as OWS, but never the cops. But if you want to know who's there to start the violence, all you have to do is notice who dresses for it: armed uniformed riot cops with body armor, batons and helmets.

Chicago's mayor, Rahm Emmanuel; Chicago Police Department superintendent, Garry McCarthy; and Fraternal Order of Police president, Michael Shields, have been working overtime with their partners in the Illinois State Police, the National Guard and Homeland Security to create a climate of fear for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization conference at the McCormick Place Convention Center to be held May 20-21.

In an article, "Baby strollers, violence, and the battle for the story of the NATO-G8 protests," Jake Olzen says the violence-baiting of the anarchists and other protesters "conveniently shifts the narrative away from the institutional violence, vital interests, and systemic injustice of NATO-G8 onto what the protesters ... have done before they've even done anything. And the acceptance of that narrative in both the media and by activists who agree with that assessment of protester violence (or are silently complicit with it), hinders greater participation in the movement."

The article goes on to say, "Unfortunately, the narrative of violent protesters goes largely unchallenged. The upcoming NATO-G8 protests — and all its components — represent a de-legitimizing counter-force to NATO-G8's business as usual: violence and the destructive force of global capitalism. If the protests are not contained or discredited by the security forces whose functional apparatus is to protect the bureaucrats of war and capital, the facade that 'there is no alternative' crumbles and gives voice to the multitude. It should be a given, then, that the state will seek to use violence against the movement." (wagingnonviolence.org, Feb. 24)

### State violence breeds resistance

The Chicago Police Department has a long, sordid history of sadistic violence against workers and oppressed people.

Examples of that violence include the Haymarket cop riot in 1886 that sparked the original May Day; the 1919 racist mob attacks against the Black community that the cops aided and abetted (former Mayor-for-Life Richard J. Daley's racist Hamburg gang was one of the instigators); the brutal attacks against student demonstrators, journalists and bystanders at the 1968 Democratic National Convention; and the death squad operation that assassinated Illinois Black Panther Party Chairman Fred Hampton in the early morning of Dec. 4, 1969. Along with Hampton, who was only 21 years old, Mark Clark, another Panther member, was killed at the age of 22 in the same raid.

Today, Chicago cop violence continues unabated from police commander Jon Burge, who used

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WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

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CHICAGO

# Anti-imperialist movement to convene U.S. chapter

**By Bill Doares**

Thousands of activists plan to come to Chicago to protest the May 20 summit of the so-called North Atlantic Treaty Organization. But this U.S.-dominated gang of warmakers and enforcers for the banks will not be the only international organization meeting in Chicago that weekend.

May 19, the birth date of people's leaders Malcolm X and Ho Chi Minh, will see the founding meeting of the U.S. Country Chapter of the International League of Peoples Struggle.

Founded in the Netherlands in 2001, the ILPS is a global alliance of community, labor and other mass organizations fighting for people's rights along anti-imperialist lines. It now includes over 350 organizations in 43 countries on six continents; country chapters already exist in the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia and Canada.

The League is united by 17 concerns, including fighting war, racism, for the rights of workers, women, Indigenous people, migrants, farmers, LGBTQ people, youth, housing, education, medical care and the environment.

The chair of the ILPS is Professor Jose Maria Sison, 73, a hero of the people's struggle in the Philippines, who is now a recognized political refugee in the Netherlands. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, was imprisoned and tortured for nine years by the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines. He spent 18 months in solitary confinement chained to a cot in his cell.

"Today in the U.S., there is a growing spirit of resistance to corporate tyranny. It can be seen in the mass support for the Occupy movement and the broad participation in May Day marches across the US," said Kuusela Hilo of Los Angeles, a member of ILPS' International Coordinating Committee.

"But this movement will go nowhere unless it joins hands with people all over the world who are fighting against imperialism because Wall Street gets its wealth and power by plundering people all over the world. People's power depends on international solidarity. That's why it's so important we are launching a U.S. Country Chapter of the League at this time."

The May 19 chapter launching is planned to coincide with the anti-NATO protests in Chicago. ILPS is among the conveners of the Coalition Against the NATO and G8 War and Poverty Agenda or CANG8.

The founding assembly of the U.S. Chapter of the ILPS-US will take place on Saturday, May 19, from 1 to 6 p.m. at Centro Autónomo, located at 3460 West Lawrence Ave. in the Albany Park neighborhood of Chicago. It will be followed by a cultural night, from 8 to 11 p.m., at the same location. More information can be gotten by emailing the chapter organizing committee at ilps.us.icc@gmail.com or from the League's website at ilps.info.

*The writer is vice chair for external affairs of the ILPS and represents the International Action Center on the League's International Coordinating Committee.*

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# Put your money ...

'Put your money where your mouth is.' We've all heard that expression; it means to give to the causes and endeavors you care about. These days more and more of us have less and less — money. Wages are going down, so are hours; our pensions are threatened. That is, if you're "lucky" enough to have or have had a job. Some of us live on $2 per day. Yes, here in the USA.

The system of capitalism and imperialism cannot meet the needs of humanity — the 99% — because it is driven by one thing only: making profits for the 1%. This newspaper tells the stories of conflict between the 99% and the 1% — the class struggle — in the U.S. and worldwide. We side with the 99% and for a socialist revolution that puts the working class and oppressed in the driver's seat of history. Socialism is the only system that can meet the needs of humanity and planet Earth.

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May Day 2012 in New York City

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

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## White Plains, N.Y.

# Grand Jury lets off racist killer cop

**By Gene Clancy**

In a move as outrageous as it was predictable, a Westchester, N.Y., grand jury — under the instructions of the prosecutor — has covered up the killing of yet another innocent Black victim of a racist police assault.

On Nov. 19, Kenneth Chamberlain, a 68-year-old retired Marine veteran with a heart condition, was repeatedly tasered, shot with a bean bag and taunted with racial epithets before being fatally shot. Chamberlain, who had heart problems, was still connected to his oxygen tubes.

Chamberlain's family slammed the decision as "a blatant cover up" and said it would request a Justice Department investigation. (Daily News, May 4)

Adding to the travesty, Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore called the killing "a tragedy," but not a crime. No disciplinary action of any sort was announced for the outrageous behavior of the police. DiFiore said only that she had been "assured by the White Plains Police Department that they will be reviewing this behavior." (Daily News, May 4)

Chamberlain's son, Kenneth Chamberlain Jr., called the failure to indict Officer Anthony Carelli "a blatant cover up of the murderous tactics" used by the White Plains police. "I have to question what evidence was presented to the grand jury," he said. "It is hard to put trust in a system that I feel has failed me already." (Daily News, May 4) Carelli was the officer named as the one who fired the shot that killed Chamberlain.

Chamberlain Jr. has pointed out that the shooting of his father is only the latest in a series of cover-ups of police brutality by the same DA's office, adding that he is "not surprised" about the court's decision, because Westchester County has "a history of questionable police shootings that have all been cleared." He specifically referred to the cases of D.J. Henry and Detective Christopher Ridley. (CNN video, *Starting Point,* May 4)

In October of 2010, Henry was shot by police outside a local bar in Thornwood, N.Y. The 20-year-old college student was parked in a no stopping zone when an officer allegedly tapped on his window, telling him to move. Police claimed that Henry hit two police officers when moving his car, and that's why officers opened fire. A Westchester County grand jury refused to indict the killer, Aaron Hess, and another officer.

In 2008, Ridley, a Black member of the Mount Vernon police force, was fatally shot while off duty when he attempted to intervene in an altercation between two homeless men. His gun fell to the ground and accidentally discharged. When he attempted to pick up his weapon, two Westchester county officers opened fire, killing him. Once again, the grand jury found no cause for indictment, and no disciplinary action was taken.

Kenneth Chamberlain Jr. pointed out that not only does District Attorney DiFiore work closely with the police department, but that "she is a member of the Chief's organization [Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association]." (CNN video, *Starting Point,* May 4)

Chamberlain is right to be suspicious of not only the district attorney, but the entire grand jury system. Across the country, grand juries routinely refuse to indict police officers accused of police brutality. Prosecutors, who present the case to the grand jury and set the ground rules, are part of the same racist, repressive apparatus as the police, and the district attorneys have almost total control.

As former chief judge of the NYS Court of Appeals, Sol Wachtler famously observed, "Prosecutors have so much control over grand juries that they could convince them to indict a ham sandwich." (BarryPopik.com, July 15, 2004)

Moreover, Carelli has a history of racism and brutality. Two Jordanian brothers have filed a lawsuit because Carelli and five other officers beat them during an arrest in 2008 for disorderly conduct, charges that have since been dismissed. Jereis and Salameh Hatter have testified that Carelli was the roughest of all, kicking and hitting them with a nightstick while calling them a racist designation for people of Arab or other Middle Eastern origin.

Carelli made the unbelievable claim in a 2010 deposition that the brothers were belligerent and that one "slammed his own head against the police car." (NYMag.com, May 5)

Carelli also said in his sworn deposition that Jereis Hatter had no visible signs of injury to his face. A photo taken by Jereis' lawyer after the arrest shows that his face was battered.

As in the Trayvon Martin case, progressive and anti-racist people everywhere must redouble our efforts to obtain justice for all victims of racist police brutality. □

# Stop 'Stop & Frisk' goes to trial

**By Desiree DeLoach**
**Manhattan Criminal Court, New York**

The alarm has been sounded and the verdict is in — guilty as charged.

In one of the most highly publicized political trials that New York City has seen recently, all 20 defendants were convicted of disorderly conduct for exercising their First Amendment rights and addressing their grievances against New York City's Stop and Frisk policy.

Princeton University professor Dr. Cornel West's presence among the 19 defendants who testified in court brought some of that publicity. The accused answered a call to "go right up to the line, right up to the edge," according to Paul Mills, one of the defense attorneys.

In New York City, police stop 1,900 people each day, or more than 684,000 individuals throughout 2011. Eighty-seven percent stopped were Black or Latino/a. Ninety percent were released without charges.

The defendants were rallying Oct. 21 at 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. in Harlem. People addressed the crowd then via the people's mic, which at times extended to three waves of repetition due to the high volume of people in attendance. Some speakers described their personal experiences of being stopped and frisked by the NYPD.

After the speeches, a march began to the 28th Police Precinct. Many of the protesters bypassed the metal barricades sectioned off in front of the precinct and lined themselves up in front of the doors. They chanted, "We won't stop until we stop Stop and Frisk!" After approximately 30 minutes, 35 people were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Twenty of them would continue through to trial.

The prosecution had to prove beyond a reasonable doubt to Judge Robert Mandelbaum that the defendants obstructed the entrance to the 28th Precinct. The defense maintained that the defendants only symbolically blocked the doors and that no member of the public would have been denied entry. Video evidence showed the doors opening and closing several times throughout the demonstration.

In the closing moments of the trial, the defendants had a choice of speaking. The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp of St. Mary's Church in Harlem said: "On October 21, I acted out of love. I took an oath to tell the truth, and we'll continue speaking the truth."

All defendants were sentenced to time served and must pay a $120 surcharge. One defendant was also required to do two days of community service.

After the verdict, the defendants' supporters rallied outside the court. Defendant Ribka Getachew said, "We thank the judge that in there found us to be guilty, and when we say guilty we have to think about what they're judging that by.

"We're talking about the United States Constitution," she added. "We have to talk about what this country was founded upon. It's a capitalistic country that aims and that prides itself on inequality and oppression."

Dr. Cornel West said: "We emerge from this moment with more strength, more fortitude and more determination because it ain't about us. We're just simply trying to make a contribution to minimize the suffering of these young people out here, and we let them know that we love them, we care for them, and we let the powers that be know, we're gonna stand with them, we're gonna fight back, we're gonna defend them, we're gonna protect them.

"And keep in mind, you've got some ancestors in the past smilin' on you in such a way," Dr. West added. "Malcolm X says you haven't forgotten me! Brother Martin says you haven't forgotten me! Brother Huey and Bobby, you haven't forgotten me! It's a compliment to be guilty today." □

## Oakland people's trial

# Police department charged with genocide

**By Terri Kay**
**Oakland, Calif.**

A Court for Black Justice and Reparations was held in East Oakland by the International Peoples Democratic Uhuru Movement (InPDUM). The charge against the Oakland Police Department was "Colonial genocide of the African community," with arguments for the prosecution led by People's Advocate, Diop Olugbala, Oakland Freedom Summer Project chair and international president of InPDUM.

Directly before the May 5 trial, a March for Black Justice went down MacArthur Boulevard, ending at the Uhuru House. Marching through the community, people chanted: "OPD you can't hide, we charge you with genocide!" "Justice for Oscar Grant!" and "Long live Lovelle Mixon!" (Mixon killed four OPD cops months after the murder of Oscar Grant and was subsequently killed by the OPD.)

In opening the trial, Diop explained that guilt would be determined based on the legal standards of InPDUM's 52-point program. He said that police are part of the repressive apparatus of the state, to protect the interests of those who have against those who have not.

An attempt was made to serve a subpoena for testimony on OPD chief, Howard Jordan, during a public event held by the OPD. In the process, Bakari Olatunji, a 20-year veteran of the Uhuru Movement, was arrested. He is being held on $25,000 bail on charges of threatening an officer.

Elaine Brown, former chair of the Black Panther Party, provided the first testimony at the trial, on "Counterinsurgency against the Black Power Revolution of the 1960s." Brown explained that crime is political, not moral, as evidenced by the awarding of medals for killing people in Afghanistan. She talked about the counterintelligence program of the FBI, known as Cointelpro, and how it was used against the BPP.

Brown went on to say that the BPP "couldn't be part of the scheme that oppressed us — capitalism." They were socialists. She described how the FBI hired agents to infiltrate the BPP and instigate people so as to get them charged with conspiracies. Brown reminded the crowd that Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown, chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), then minister of justice for the BPP, is currently serving a life sentence in a supermax prison convicted of the shooting of two sheriff's deputies.

### 'Constitution not written for us'

Brown wrapped up her testimony by talking about how the BPP had to spend most of its first three years defending people who were arrested. She said, "The Constitution was never written for us" and that judges were part of the same system as the police.

Others who testified included Mike King, from Occupy Oakland, who talked about how attacking the OO camp took legitimacy from the cops and gave it to OO. He said the OPD was now using a more targeted approach, with Homeland Security involved. Other testimony came from Cephus Johnson, uncle of Oscar Grant;

*Continued on page 4*

# Teachers Federation walks out of convention

**By G. Dunkel**
**Buffalo, N.Y.**

The Buffalo Teachers Federation, joined by some other union locals from Western New York, walked out of the New York State United Teachers convention in protest April 27 when New York State Education Commissioner John King took the podium to answer questions and justify the state's policies on performance evaluations. More than 2,000 took part in the walkout.

The NYSUT represents all the organized teachers in New York state. It claims 419,000 members. It has lost 17,000 members in the past two years, mainly due to layoffs.

The teachers union has become a convenient target to blame for the deficiencies and failures in education, whether or not they have any responsibility for them. King has rejected three agreements between the BTF and the Buffalo school board over how annual professional performance reviews (APPRs) are to be carried out.

Even if a student has been absent for over 7 weeks, as in Buffalo, where 30 percent of the students fit into this category, King feels that their test results have to be counted in teacher evaluations. King has other requirements that the BTF feels are unclear or even unknown.

After the walkout, one teacher from Westhill School District asked King if he felt he should resign over a series of missteps in the past two years.

At the BTF rally after its walkout, BTF President Phil Rumore said, "What King has done is immoral. He has kept poor kids in Buffalo from getting $5.6 million in federal aid because he is having an argument with their teachers."

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

**Walkout, April 27.**

During a brief, unplanned encounter at a local restaurant, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown told some NYSUT delegates that the dispute between the BTF and King could cost the school system $50 million if it wasn't settled by November.

*The writer is a NYSUT delegate.*

# Occupy Wisconsin's first state General Assembly

Poor and working people from all over Wisconsin participated in Occupy Fond du Lac's peace rally and Occupy Wisconsin's state General Assembly on May 5 in Fond du Lac — an area known as the Fox Valley. Dozens of youth and students attended all of the day's events.

The day began in Veteran's Park with a series of speakers and continued with marches to the city and county jails to protest the prison-industrial complex and on to the Armed Forces Recruiting Center to protest U. S. wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan. Representatives from Occupy Milwaukee, Veterans for Peace, the WI Bail Out The People Movement, Occupy Fond du Lac and the Committee to Stop FBI Repression spoke or helped lead chants.

The main theme of the peace rally was "No War with Iran." "Almost half of our federal tax dollars go to fund the U.S. war machine," stated Occupy Fond du Lac youth and student leader James Loki. "That money is from the 99% and should be spent on education, jobs and health care — not war profiteering."

Protesters hoisted signs including "Jobs Now: Make The Banks Pay," "Legalize, Organize, Unionize," "No Justice, No Peace" and "Bail Out The People, Not the Banks." They stopped at banks to demand an end to the foreclosures and evictions of millions of poor and working people and to the cancellation of student loan debt. Chants included, "Racist police have gotta go!" "Free Palestine!" "Money for Jobs and Education not War and Incarceration!" and "Bail Out the People, Not the Banks!"

At each stop, protesters staged street theater die-ins to remember the 7,000 U.S. military and 1.5 million Iraqi civilian casualties and other victims of the wars waged by the U.S. worldwide.

Kellie Jacobs-Stewart, with Occupy Wisconsin, drove across the state to help organize and facilitate the first ever statewide General Assembly in Fond du Lac.

"I've never been political, but I felt I had no other choice but to join in pointing out the 1%," she said. "I've seen people losing their First Amendment rights, our government hindered by special interest groups, and people in our communities losing their homes while banks continue their monopoly. We have to stand up for our rights."

The General Assembly unanimously agreed that the following demands would be the focus of Occupy Wisconsin in the immediate future: mobilizing to protest NATO in Chicago; assisting to build June 6 "Keep It In The Streets" actions statewide after the June 5 gubernatorial recall election; opposing iron ore mining in Wisconsin; canceling student loan debt; stopping foreclosures and evictions, a moratorium now!; opposing the American Legislative Exchange Council and other anti-worker, right-wing organizations; solidarity with immigrant rights: stopping raids and deportations; justice For Trayvon Martin and Bo Morrison: no to police brutality and vigilante terror; endorsing the Committee to Stop FBI Repression and opposing the Carlos Montes frame-up; opposing budget cuts to public education; and supporting the 11 x 15 campaign, an effort to reduce the prison population by half by 2015.

The day concluded with protesters singing on Main Street after nightfall as neon lights flashed out text saying, "Tax the richest 1%," a visually dramatic message provided by the Overpass Light Brigade.

*For more information, go to facebook.com/Occupy.Fond.du.Lac*; *occupywi.org; wibailoutpeople.org* and *occupyriverwest.com*.

**—Report and photo by Bryan G. Pfeifer**

# An eviction is a form of terrorism

**By Dianne Mathiowetz**
**Atlanta**

"Nightmare on Wellhaun Road" is how 62-year-old Christine Frazer describes May 2 events, when dozens of DeKalb County sheriff's deputies surrounded her home at 3 a.m.

The family, including her 85-year-old mother, Daisy Fields; Frazer's daughter, Rasheeda; and her 3-year-old son were roused from their sleep by armed men beating on their door and ordering them to evacuate. Was there some sort of emergency? Was the family in danger? No. The army of uniformed police came to carry out an eviction.

DeKalb County Sheriff Thomas Brown — who is up for re-election this fall — oversaw the drug-style raid, with 40 deputies and SWAT teams. Animal Control officers impounded the family's pet dogs. An unidentified eviction company's crew took more than six hours to dump the three-bedroom house's contents onto the curb, scattering clothing, food, furniture, family photos and toys all over the lawn.

Squad cars blocked the entrance to the street, preventing Occupy Atlanta supporters from assisting the family. Friends and family members could only stand with the Frazers when television crews arrived hours later.

What prompted such an unprecedented action by the sheriff's department? Evictions are usually conducted by marshals, who provide advance notice of an eviction so occupants can pack up their belongings and make housing arrangements. Brown cited Occupy Atlanta's presence as the reason for the stealth raid and the need for a massive force to "prevent violence." For months, members of Occupy Atlanta had set up tents in the Frazer's front yard and had been working with them and other community members to address the foreclosure problem. At least four other homes on the block were already boarded up.

Frazer's story is all too similar to that of thousands of people in DeKalb County who were victims of predatory lending, subprime mortgages, lack of affordable health care and unemployment. Atlanta consistently ranks among the top five cities for the number of recorded monthly foreclosures.

The Frazers bought their home on a wooded, dead-end street in south DeKalb County in 1994. They were then the parents of two children and small business owners. Their family's fortunes took a turn when Frazer's spouse had multiple surgeries, finally losing both legs at the knees. They refinanced in 2001. He died in 2002. The next year, Frazer's mother came to live with her. Frazer tried valiantly to keep up the businesses but without her spouse and with the economic downturn, she eventually lost them.

Frazer next got a job with a big pest extermination company, but in 2009, she was fired for being one minute late, even though she had called her supervisor to report car problems. Since then, she hasn't found steady work and so fell behind on her mortgage payments. She sought a mortgage reduction plan, but her mortgage was sold and resold several times. Investors One Corporation, located in White Plains, N.Y., claims to have the title to 3662 Wellhaun Rd. and has filed for eviction.

Yet, a DeKalb County judge signed the dispossession notice despite a pending federal lawsuit challenging the legality of Investors One Corporation's paper title.

In addition to Occupy Atlanta, civil rights and community groups and individuals, including former Rep. Cynthia McKinney are supporting the Frazer family's efforts to regain possession of their home. (See occupyatlanta.org)

Frazer explains, "This is where my daughter grew up, the house where my husband and I worked to raise our family, where he passed. The only home my grandson has ever known. This is our home, and I am going to fight to get it back." □

## Oakland people's trial

# Police charged with genocide

*Continued from page 3*

Enjoli Mixon, sister of Lovelle Mixon; and Maureen Wagener, who spoke about the "economic quarantine" of the African-American community.

Johnson spoke about Grant's murder by the Bay Area Rapid Transit police. He said BART police go to the same academy as the OPD and work from the same playbook. He pointed out that Grant and his friends were wearing hoodies, just like Trayvon Martin, and described how police officers on the BART platform shouted racial epithets at Grant. "It's a racist criminal justice system," Johnson said, "up and down the line."

Johnson testified that no African Americans were on the jury in the trial of Johannes Mehserle, the BART police officer found guilty only of involuntary manslaughter in Grant's murder. Every one of the Black prospective jurors was excluded. The venue was changed from Oakland, where the killing happened, to Los Angeles.

The jury, said Johnson, was denied the right to see all the evidence, such as Mehserle's past history of police misconduct. After the jury rendered its verdict, the judge modified the jury's verdict to the benefit of Mehserle. Johnson proclaimed, "This whole system should be destroyed and rebuilt. So I say, study this system, feel the pain, and be a part of the movement to change it." □

# On the Picket Line

By Sue Davis

## USW retirees occupy plant

More than 500 retirees from the Century Aluminum Corp. in Ravenwood, W.V., were shocked when, in June 2010, the multimillion-dollar company announced that it was canceling their health benefits and keeping $25 million they had paid into their pensions. Those hard-earned benefits were the only lifeline the retirees had after being exposed to multiple toxins that lead to cancers, heart disease, emphysema and other lung diseases as the workers age. That's what emboldened the retired Steelworkers and their families to protest this injustice far and wide, even taking their case to Century's shareholders' meeting and confronting its millionaire CEO. The retirees also mobilized support from the Occupy movement, and the USW filed a lawsuit. But what ultimately succeeded was a 75-day occupation of the closed plant, Occupy Century, that began on Dec. 18, 2011, and ended in late March. The company agreed to restore the health benefits and grant $44 million to the retirees over 10 years, with up to $25 million in additional contributions. Karen Gorrell, the 62-year-old spouse of a Century retiree and an Occupy Century leader, summed up the workers' hard-fought victory: "Every one of us believed that the sacrifice was worth the risk. ... [And we showed] that a bunch of little senior citizens can take on corporate giants in West Virginia." (occupy.com, April 2)

## Machinists strike for benefits

More than 3,700 workers, represented by the Machinists union (IAM) at Lockheed Martin plants in Texas, California and Maryland, went on strike April 24 after rejecting a contract that reduced health care benefits and dropped defined-benefit pensions for newly hired workers. "This is ground zero in the health care and pension fight," said IAM's Southern Territory General Vice President Bob Martinez. "This is a nationwide fight to take good health care and pension benefits from working families, and our members ... are determined to prevail." (www.goiam.org, May 1)

Likewise, IAM members of Local 851 at Caterpillar in Joliet, Ill., voted overwhelmingly to strike May 1 because the multimillion-dollar company's six-year contract would hike health care premiums, abolish the defined-benefit pension plan, and offer no cost-of-living formula, while giving managers the unprecedented, unilateral right to establish pay rates. The union noted that pay for Caterpillar's CEO jumped 60 percent to $16.1 million in 2011, while other top executives raked in huge salary increases.

Meanwhile, joining IAM were 17,000 passenger service and reservation workers at the newly reorganized United Airlines. These included formerly unorganized Continental workers and IAM members at United. Given the 14,800 ramp service workers and stock and store employees who are already IAM members, the union now represents more than 31,500 employees at the merged airline. (aflcio.org, March 8)

## Writers Guild fights for health care

A strong showing of New York City unions, including members of United Auto Workers Region 9A and this writer (UAW Local 1981), held a picket line and rally on April 27 to support the Writers Guild of America East's campaign to win affordable health benefits for writers of nonfiction TV shows. Writers and producers at four nonfiction basic cable companies, whose income is a fraction of that paid to network and premium cable writers, voted for WGAE to represent them in collective bargaining. Because they're freelancers, they can't endure long waiting periods before becoming eligible for health benefits or high premiums and deductibles. Go, WGAE!

## Resolution: Save the Post Office

The resolution titled "Build a Powerful Nationwide Movement to Save the People's Post Office" was passed unanimously May 2 by Golden Gate Branch 214 of the National Association of Letter Carriers for submission to the July 23-27 NALC national convention. Detailing the proposed "devastating attacks" on the U.S. Postal Service, the resolution noted how vital the USPS has been historically to this country, that the USPS "is a strategic 'multiplier industry' in transportation and communications, with up to 8 million workers in related industries," and that it has continued "to thrive despite competition from the Internet" and effects of the continuing recession. Given that "the postal system belongs to the people," the resolution resolved that NALC would work with the three other postal unions to encourage the formation of a national network of Community/ Labor Coalitions to Save Postal Jobs and Services to defeat these attacks and ensure that the USPS is "publicly owned and run in the public interest." □

NEW YORK'S MAY DAY

# A new level of struggle

**By John Catalinotto**
**New York**

Strong participation by Occupy Wall Street and unity with sectors of organized labor and the immigrant rights movement added a new dimension to May Day in New York in 2012.

According to organizers, some 50,000 people stretched along Broadway from Union Square to Worth Street in their march to the financial district. The 99% had taken to the streets in force.

The mass march along Broadway was the central action of a day of events starting early in the morning at what was billed as the "99 Pickets" campaign. This included a protest at the central Post Office against plans to lay off 200,000 workers and curtail services.

The day included rallies, classes and discussions at Bryant Park, Madison Park and what has become a regular Union Square gathering of the May 1 Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights, this year from noon to 4 p.m. OWS held some actions that involved civil disobedience. Police were out in force wherever OWS contingents marched, and dozens of demonstrators were arrested during the day.

A series of discussions carried out over two months by the "four-by-four" committee resulted in an agreement among organizers from the OWS, labor unions and the May 1 Coalition for a unified rally at Union Square Park from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the march along Broadway.

Teresa Gutierrez of the May 1 Coalition told Workers World that the New York City Central Labor Council endorsed the May Day activities and that a number of important unions in the city actively mobilized.

Those unions with contingents carrying signs on Broadway included the Communications Workers; the Transit Workers Union Local 100; Teamsters Local 808; Local 768 of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union; the Professional Staff Congress of the City University; and Service Employees Local 1199.

In a talk in New York on May 5, Gutierrez noted, "In 2006, it was a thoroughly progressive step forward for the overall class struggle that an immigrant resurgence revived May Day in the United States."

This year, the May 1 Coalition was there in Union Square and on Broadway. They included the Filipino-based BAYAN-USA and the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns, other groups from Asia and Africa, and from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, and the rest of Latin America, like the Dominican Women's Development Center, the Honduran Resistance and others. May 1 is demanding full amnesty and legalization for all immigrants and is fighting for the rights of all workers.

Gutierrez underlined that "the Occupied Wall Street movement has taken May Day to a whole other level. When the OWS movement chose May Day to send a message to the 1% that despite repression, despite the city's success in shutting down Zuccotti Park, this movement had not gone away, it was a tremendous flex of muscle. OWS participation in May Day," she said, "was a step forward in the struggle to defend not only immigrant rights but all workers' rights."

People came to New York from the surrounding region for May Day. Workers World spoke with Viveca Andrews, secretary, and Eugene Powell, president, of the Central Labor Council of Stroudsburg, Pa., who had come in for May Day. The two said they were trying to put together a workers' march for Stroudsburg, a small central city in the Pocono Mountains, to wake up the workers and bring the unions together in what is not a progressive region.

At the Workers World literature table, David Karp and Martez Smith, students at Ohio State University in Columbus, spoke of their efforts to confront hate crimes on campus, like graffiti directed against Black students or Muslim students. This Big 10 college is known for its sports teams, not for a politically active student body, but the two told how they wanted to organize a "teach-in" and a group that they called "Stand Your Ground," turning the rightist slogan on its head.

Activists distributing leaflets and placards throughout the crowd in Union Square remarked on how many of the people they met told them they were on their first demonstration ever, pulled in by the growing mood of struggle over the past seven months. "OWS was in fact decisive," Gutierrez said, "in pulling out the huge number of 50,000 people here in New York City."

Gutierrez was confident that the movement that showed itself on May Day "will rise to the task. The deepening economic crisis, the growing racism and repression is fueling a train that cannot stop."

*Gutierrez's comments are available in full at www.workers.org.*

# 1%'s NATO: OUT OF CHICAGO

*Continued from page 1*

electrical shock to torture hundreds of Black men into false confessions on capital crimes (under the protection of Richard M. Daley, first as state's attorney, then as mayor); to the racist killing of 22-year-old Rekia Boyd, an African American; Darrin Hanna, a Black man beaten and tasered to death; and the double jeopardy railroading of Howard Morgan into a 40-year prison sentence for the "crime" of surviving a racist cop attack where he was shot 27 times — to name a few.

The CPD is a racist terror squad whose job it is to militarily occupy working-class communities of color in order to uphold the political and economic rule of the rich. In this, it has the identical role that NATO has internationally — waging war and occupation on the "Global South" to ensure the rule of finance capital, mainly U.S. imperialist finance capital. The CPD and NATO were made for each other.

Cops and politicians are stumbling all over each other in a mad race to see who can come up with the most threatening stance against anti-NATO protesters. Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart tried to float the idea of reopening the Joliet Correctional Center in anticipation of many anti-NATO arrests. Joliet has been closed since 2002. In response, Illinois Department of Corrections spokeswoman Stacey Solano said that "Joliet Correctional Center is closed and not an option." (corrections.com, May 3) Top cop Michael Shields characterized anti-NATO protesters as "... a bunch of wild, anti-globalist anarchists." (www.guardian.co.uk, Jan. 19)

Coalition Against NATO/G8 War and Poverty Agenda organizer and longtime anti-war and union activist, Joe Iosbaker, said, "The corporate media have been, with a few notable exceptions, partners with Mayor Rahm Emmanuel and Superintendent McCarthy in their vilification of us. Their story is that protests lead to violence, even when the only violence is police hurting people. Of course, not once has any reporter noted the violence of NATO's wars; the devastation to people's lives brought by the economic crisis, caused by the bankers of the G8; or the poverty forced on workers by the austerity measures imposed by the members of the G8.

"People are saying this will be larger than our (2008) RNC protest, which drew 30,000 people," Iosbaker said. "I think there will be some synergy as the movement against corporate globalization comes together with the anti-war movement. Our slogan is 'Jobs, Healthcare, Education, Housing — Not War.' We want our marches and rallies to be things that people can bring their children to. We want everyone who wants to say something to these heads of state to be heard. We intend to have our rights respected — our rights to assemble, to speak, and to march." (waginonviolence.org, Feb. 24) □

# MAY DAY: *a catalyst to b*

*Across the United States, tens of thousands of workers, students, youth, immigrants and oppressed peoples took part in marches, rallies and other actions to commemorate May Day — International Workers' Day — on May 1.*

*The following is based on reports from Workers World writers Terri Kay, John Parker, Bob McCubbin, Paul Teitelbaum, Eric Struch, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Martha Grevatt, Leslie Feinberg, Dianne Mathiowetz, Dante Strobino, Gloria Rubac and Scott Williams.*

**By Kris Hamel**

## OAKLAND, CALIF.

As many as 7,000 people joined the Bay Area March for Dignity and Resistance in Oakland, organized by a coalition that included immigrants' rights organizers, Decolonize Oakland, members of Occupy Oakland, Occupy San Francisco, Oakland Education Association, American Postal Workers Union, the Left Party, Workers World Party and others.

Workers fired by Pacific Steel Casting Company held banners and led the four-and-a-half-mile march to Oscar Grant Plaza in downtown Oakland.

A morning strike was held by the Inland Boatmen's Union as part of the organizing efforts of the 14-union Golden Gate Bridge Labor Coalition. Contract negotiations have been stalled for a year. Hundreds of people showed up to support the picket lines at the Larkspur and San Francisco ferry terminals.

About 4,500 members of the California Nurses Association also held one-day strikes at Sutter-affiliated hospitals across the Bay Area to protest sweeping reductions in patient care, nurses' standards and workplace conditions. Occupy Oakland's Labor Solidarity Committee supported these strikes.

Occupy Patriarchy held an action against Oakland's Child Protective Services, while Occupy Oakland also had other actions targeting capitalism, the banks and gentrification. Several downtown banks had their windows smashed. Oakland cops started using a new tactic to snatch individuals, but each time they did, crowds tried to defend the targeted activists. Cops got hit with egg paint bombs, and a couple of police vehicles were damaged. About 33 people were arrested in Oakland during the day.

Oakland

WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

## SAN DIEGO

The death of Anastasio Hernández Rojas at the hands of Border Patrol agents at the San Ysidro border crossing two years ago dominated May Day activities. A recently revealed video shows a helpless, handcuffed Hernández lying on the ground and being tasered, surrounded by more than a dozen agents.

Photos of Hernández in the hospital where he died make it clear he was severely beaten. Yet no Border Patrol agents have been indicted for this assault and killing. María Puga, Hernández's widow, continues to demand that the killers be brought to justice. San Diego May Day activists demanded that as well.

A rally and vigil for Hernández and the eight other border residents who have been brutalized and killed by Border Patrol agents since 2010 took place in Balboa Park on May 3.

San Diego

WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN

## TUCSON, ARIZ.

About 500 people marched along the traditional May Day route from the small Latino/a city of South Tucson to Armory Park in downtown Tucson. The march, led by Indigenous people, joined the crowd assembled in the park.

Speakers of many nationalities, including children and youth, spoke about the need for unity and demanded an end to the militarization of the border, the racist and anti-woman laws coming out of the state legislature, and deportations and racial profiling.

Immigrant rights, labor, and Occupy forces worked together in a magnificent show of solidarity as May Day came on the heels of heightened attacks by racist border vigilantes. Marchers were angered by the recent killing of two Latinos in the small town of Eloy, Ariz., and the decision by the state of Arizona to legitimize these fascist vigilantes by introducing legislation that would incorporate them into a volunteer State Militia.

## LOS ANGELES

The Southern California Immigration Coalition held a kick-off rally prior to a march of 5,000, which included members of the United Teachers of Los Angeles, community organizations, national liberation organizations, anti-war and social justice groups, as well as Occupy LA contingents.

Demands were full legalization now, driver's licenses for all, no ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) raids, workers' rights to organize, and no guest-worker programs. Rally speakers expressed the need to grow a movement independent of the Democratic and Republican parties that respects the rights and self-determination of the most oppressed in society.

An SCIC banner with victims of racist killings — Trayvon Martin and Anastasio Hernández Rojas — reflected the need for Black and Brown unity. Banners for the Cuban 5 and flags from many Latin American countries showed international solidarity and that activists would not be silent about U.S. imperialism's drive toward further war, poverty and terrorism.

Earlier in the day, the County Federation of Labor also held a march downtown. Occupy LA held a "4-winds" march and actions as part of its general strike call. Some of the protests culminated in downtown marches. Service Employees-United Service Workers West held a morning civil disobedience action at LAX airport.

LOS ANGELES

WW PHOTO: JOHN PARKER

## HOUSTON

Led by the Living Hope Wheelchair Association, which organizes and fights for workers living with spinal cord injuries, many organizations and activists chanted and cheered as they marched through the predominately immigrant community of Southwest Houston to celebrate May Day. From Occupy Houston, the Central American Resource Center and the Alianza Mexicana to Workers World Party and the Houston Peace and Justice Center, workers and activists demanded that the deportations must stop and NO legislation similar to Arizona's must ever be introduced in Texas. Librotraficante's Lupe Mendez declared that solidarity with the students and people of Arizona remains a priority.

## CHICAGO

Nearly 3,000 people showed up to celebrate May Day in the city of its birth. The march began with a rally in Union Park and included speakers from the immigrant rights and union movements. Service Employees members, various Teamsters locals and other unions were well represented, along with progressive and leftist groups such as Workers World Party, the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign and Food Not Bombs. Activists with CANG8 (Coalition Against NATO/G8 War & Poverty Agenda), who are preparing for a mass march on May 20 against the NATO meeting scheduled in Chicago, were also there.

The demonstrators then marched to the federal building where a rally was held. In what may have been a dry run for the May 20 anti-NATO protest, cops in body armor and riot gear were out in force, while at least three police helicopters circled overhead.

## MILWAUKEE

Buses came from all over Wisconsin for the May Day march sponsored by the immigrant rights organization Voces de la Frontera and endorsed by dozens of organizations. Strong labor contingents were present, along with Occupy contingents and activists with the WI Bail Out the People Movement. Major delegations from dozens of high schools and colleges in southeast Wisconsin, led by Latino/a students, mobilized for the day in an impressive showing. Rally speakers included Phil Neulenfeldt, president of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, and U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez from Illinois. Some 20,000 marched from the Voces de la Frontera office on the South Side of Milwaukee through the city center to Veterans Park by Lake Michigan.

# uild unity against the 1%

Detroit

WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

## DETROIT

Hundreds of activists from immigrant rights groups, Occupy Detroit, labor, community, anti-war and environmental groups, marched from Clark Park, in the heart of the Latino/a community, to Grand Circus Park in downtown Detroit. The theme was "Save the workers, defend immigrant rights, save our community, save the planet."

Students from the Southwest Detroit Freedom School spoke at the rally and led the march. Students walked out of Southwestern High School and Western High School on April 26 to protest the planned closing of Southwestern. Both schools are in the predominantly Latino/a neighborhood of Southwest Detroit. When the students who walked out were suspended for a week, they — along with parents and community activists who were building the May Day march — organized a week-long Freedom School in Clark Park.

Speakers from the elected but powerless Detroit Public Schools Board, the city union Association of Professional and Technical Employees, and the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shut-offs condemned the financial consent agreement forced on Detroit by the state and blasted the banks for destroying the city. Another rally along the route of march combined the issues of jobs and the environment.

At the federal building a rally featured speakers from Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice, Students for Justice in Palestine, and the immigrant rights group Movimiento Justicia y Paz (Peace and Justice Movement).

## SYRACUSE, N.Y.

A May Day march in downtown Syracuse brought out supporters of workers' and immigrants' rights and fighters against racism and bigotry. Stops were made at the federal building and in front of a Bank of America office, where demonstrators chanted, "Banks got bailed out, we got sold out!" Other stops included City Hall, police headquarters and the Onondaga County "Justice" Center. WW activist Minnie Bruce Pratt spoke out against racism and urged support for CeCe McDonald, a young African-American trans woman wrongfully imprisoned in Minnesota.

## ATLANTA

The Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights held a rally at the state Capitol with the official theme "immigrant rights = worker rights = human rights." Hundreds — mostly Latinos/as — participated, along with members of organized labor, including the Food and Commercial Workers and Teamsters. The frequently photographed International Action Center banner read, "Legalize! Organize! Unionize! for Immigrant and Worker Rights!" The IAC also had a speaker at the rally, where representatives of immigrant rights and labor groups were well represented.

Durham , N.C.

WW PHOTO: DANTE STROBINO

## DURHAM, N.C.

A very multinational and spirited crowd of hundreds gathered at People's Plaza in downtown Durham to celebrate International Workers' Day and march for workers' and immigrants' rights. Some of the demands included good jobs and living wages; the right to organize, join a union and collective bargaining for all workers; justice for immigrants, including amnesty and an end to deportations; an end to police brutality, mass incarceration of communities of color, and all forms of oppression and discrimination; and justice for Trayvon Martin.

Speakers represented such organizations as Black Workers for Justice, Compassion Ministry, Durham City Worker's Union (United Electrical Local 150), National Association of Letter Carriers Local 382, El Kilombo, FLOC (Farm Labor Organizing Committee)-AFL-CIO, N.C. AFL-CIO, N.C. Dream Team, N.C. Justice Center, Student Action with Farmworkers, and UNC Student Action with Workers.

After marching and holding rallies at the post office and City Hall, protesters rallied at the local jail to challenge racist repression, the murder of many Black youth, mass incarceration and deportations. Several powerful Latino/a community groups participated, many of whose members are undocumented. Yet they were able to take to the streets thanks to the strong numbers present.

## May Day – OUR Day!

**As the spectre of unemployment stalks the land, around comes May Day — a day set aside for the working class: those who build and built this nation, brick by brick.**

**Not just a day of idle salute, but a day to build more! A day to build social power. A day to strengthen our forces. A day of workers' unity. Also a day to unite with the unemployed, to bring them in.**

**In the wake of NAFTA [the North American Free Trade Agreement], one of the most brutal attacks on workers in the late 20th century, we have seen the dwindling of the working class, an attack on wages, an all-out assault on pensions (brought to you by thieving politicians!).**

**Grand theft writ large!**

**It's time for workers and trade unions to join hands with all others in their class — to build, once again, social power; to build a better tomorrow!**

**Ona Move! Workers Power IS Social Power!**

**– Mumia Abu-Jamal**

## PHILADELPHIA

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETE

People marched in the streets of West Philadelphia to oppose new symbols of state repression being built in the mostly Black, working-class community. Marchers challenged a new Youth Studies (Juvenile Detention) Center, a newly relocated city Police Headquarters, and a new ICE Detention Center — all within eight blocks of each other in an oppressed community.

Just days before the march, the School District of Philadelphia announced it is shutting 40 schools next year, with plans to close even more. Meanwhile the city continues to pour millions into prisons for youth, especially youth of color.

The last stop on the march was a local branch of the U.S. Postal Service, where retired postal workers Michael Wilson and Joe Piette spoke about the devastating cutbacks on the Postal Service and the need to save the hundreds of thousands of living-wage USPS jobs.

At the same time as the march in West Philadelphia, another march took place targeting several major banks in Center City and demanding an end to foreclosures and the exploitative practices of the capitalist banks. □

Chicago

BALTIMORE

WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

**Close to 300 people rallied at McKeldin Square, the original site of Occupy Baltimore and the city's largest May Day activity in recent memory. The first feeder march had over 100 people march from Reeds Drug store, site of one of the first Civil Rights sit-ins. The second feeder march came from the East side led by the postal workers. Fred Mason, President of the Maryland and D.C. AFL-CIO council opened the rally.**

## MAY DAY ACTIONS

# World's workers demand jobs, higher pay

**By Kathy Durkin**

International Workers' Day in major cities around the world had particular significance this year as many protests focused on the problems wrought by the global capitalist crisis — soaring unemployment, low wages and poverty. There were some signs of an anti-capitalist slant, and in some cities, even pro-socialist politics were on display. The Occupy movement joined actions in London, England; Toronto, Canada; and elsewhere.

European socialists established this workers' day in 1889 to honor the Chicago Haymarket martyrs, who fought for the eight-hour day. It became a global day for workers to set forth their demands and demonstrate their strength. Socialist countries, labor unions, socialists, communists and other progressive forces have commemorated it.

According to international news sources, hundreds of thousands of workers and activists marched in Europe. Labor unions decried layoffs and wage, pension and service cutbacks. Workers condemned the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and their own governments for imposing harsh austerity measures on millions of people.

Workers came out in Italian cities, including Turin, Rome and Rieti, and in 290 union-led actions throughout France. One million rallied in 80 Spanish cities, with the biggest assemblies in Barcelona and Madrid. They railed against Spain's 50 percent jobless rate for youth and 25 percent for all workers. Rallies took place in Lisbon and all over Portugal, led by the CGTP union, which decried "exploitation and impoverishment" due to anti-labor attacks.

Banners held by workers, retirees and students proclaimed, "Revolt now!" and "Tax the Rich!" in Athens and other Greek cities, where severe austerity measures have devastated the masses. Some 400,000 workers attended 420 rallies throughout Germany to demand higher wages and an end to austerity policies in Europe.

### Rallying in Asia, the Middle East, Africa

Across the globe, tens of thousands of Asian workers rallied for jobs and decent wages in Dhaka, Bangladesh; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Katmandu, Nepal; and Jakarta, Indonesia. In Dili, East Timor's capital, 85 people were arrested as they demanded higher wages. Demonstrators in the Philippines burned an effigy of President Benigno Aquino.

The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions led a 5,000-strong demonstration for an eight-hour workday and higher wages. Women workers raised similar demands in Karachi, Pakistan. In Beirut, Lebanon, marchers carried signs bearing communist symbols.

In North Africa, echoes were heard of last year's protests against U.S.-backed autocratic regimes. Tens of thousands marched in Tunisia's capital, Tunis, while in Cairo, Egyptians denounced the repressive military regime. In Muqsha, Bahrain, unemployed workers demanded jobs they had punitively lost for joining the protest movement.

Jobs, wages and working conditions were also the focus of demands throughout Africa, including in Nigeria, where labor unions held actions in Lagos and Abuja. The Congress of South African Trade Unions organized 15 rallies across the country to honor workers' contributions to the liberation struggle.

### The Caribbean & Latin America

In Port-au-Prince, Haitian workers marched, chanting, "Minimum wage, 500 Gourds [$10]! Slavery — no! Workers — yes!" They demanded an official May Day and respect for their rights. Unions and other progressive forces, including the Mobilizing Collective to Compensate the Victims of Cholera, called the action.

Demands for economic justice were made throughout Latin America, including in Bogotá, Colombia, and Santiago, Chile, where police tried to suppress demonstrations. In contrast, thousands of Venezuelans enthusiastically marched in Caracas to support President Hugo Chávez's new pro-labor law proposal.

Health care workers led the 500,000-strong march in Havana, Cuba, with its slogan, "To preserve and perfect socialism." Nearly 2,000 guests represented unions and social movements from 117 countries. Demonstrations took place in Cuba's 15 provinces, all demanding freedom for the Cuban 5 heroes unjustly held in U.S. prisons — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and René González. Cubavision TV, which is available online in the U.S., broadcast Havana's rally live.

*G. Dunkel and Cheryl LaBash contributed to this article.*

PHOTO: IVAN PHELL T. ENRILE

## GREECE AND FRANCE:

# Masses reject austerity

**By G. Dunkel**

While the elections in Greece and France had a common thread — rejecting austerity — their impacts will be different.

France is the world's fifth largest economy, with a productive, skilled and highly paid working class. France is a major imperialist power, with colonies in the Caribbean and neocolonies in Africa. It's had an election among the two remaining candidates for president, a powerful post which some Marxist analysts describe as a "disguised monarchy."

François Hollande, even though he belongs to a party that calls itself "socialist," by his training and education in elite finishing schools and his career as a provincial politician with deep ties to Paris, he is a member of the French capitalist establishment in good standing. His economic prescription for France is higher taxes, particularly on the rich, a mild jobs program and a balanced budget by 2017, the end of his term.

Parties to the left of the Socialists called for voting for Hollande as a means of rejecting the incumbent President Nicolas Sarkozy's record of targeting unions, workers and all democratic rights.

Pierre Laurent, secretary general of the French Communist Party, said, "In the concrete conditions of the second round [of the presidential election], the only way to pursue the fight for the Left Front is to assure the most crushing defeat of Nicolas Sarkozy. His program, as we see from his daily declarations of war against unions and our standard of living is far worse than what he has actually accomplished." (L'Humanité, April 27.)

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, the candidate of the Parti du Gauche (Left Party) in the first round, issued a similar statement May 3 in L'Humanité.

The way one French leftist put her voting intentions: "I am going to hold my nose when I vote for Hollande," who ended up with just under 52 percent of the vote to Sarkozy's 48 percent.

Parliamentary elections in mid-June will reveal more about changes in popular attitudes. The actual impact on policy is much like an electoral victory of a Democrat over a Republican would be here in the U.S.: different domestic programs, but both serve big capital.

### Greek voters rebuff European banks

Greece is in a full-fledged depression, rivaling the Great Depression of the U.S. in the 1930s. By World Bank figures, its economy has been contracting since 2008 — nearly 7 percent in 2011 and about the same in 2010. Unemployment is at 21 percent and youth unemployment is over 50 percent. According to its agreement

*Continued on page 9*

# Chicago NATO Summit, Marxism & state violence

**By Sara Flounders**

The extravagant NATO Summit scheduled for May 20 and 21 in Chicago has made it necessary to restate a Marxist, working-class understanding of the role of violence in capitalist society.

This obscene celebration of organized, high-tech violence brings generals, admirals, heads of state and their entourages from 26 nations to Chicago just as an unsolvable capitalist downturn has brought cuts to every social program. High unemployment has created a crisis for millions.

In Chicago, college classes, graduations and dorm closings have been moved to accommodate the NATO Summit. Streets, buildings and whole city sections will be locked down, as prohibitive new ordinances restrict public assembly. Thousands of Homeland Security, State Police and National Guard troops will arrive.

Chicago's corporate media promote scare stories that demonstrators will use violence to protest the NATO military alliance.

This fraudulent media hype consciously aims to mask the NATO military alliance's concentrated violence. It's no surprise this media distortion seeps into the whole population. It even impacts the progressive political movement.

Historically, in the U.S. and all around the world, the oppressed and exploited have created and joined popular movements that organize mass actions. These movements confront overwhelming state violence orchestrated by a tiny ruling class that accumulated capital through hundreds of years of slave trade, child labor, piracy, brigandage and colonial expropriation.

Mass self-defense against capitalist violence, colonial policies or institutionalized repression has taken many forms. This legitimate self-defense confronts state-sanctioned violence.

In Chicago, for months the United National Antiwar Coalition working with the local Coalition Against NATO/G8 — CANG8 — has built a broad, united effort to hold a legally permitted, well-organized, family-friendly mass protest. Many unions and community organizations have endorsed and are mobilizing. This is undisputed.

Unfortunately the media hype has influenced some voices in the progressive movement to accept as fact that the planned protests are threatening violence. They have demanded that all organizers protesting the violent NATO military alliance must publicly disavow violence within the progressive movement and must politically embrace nonviolence.

**WW COMMENTARY**

To raise such a demand not only takes the whole anti-NATO protest off message, it turns the whole issue of state violence on its head. The progressive movement should focus on demanding that the repressive state apparatus, the racist police in Chicago responsible for the killings of so many youths of color, and NATO itself forswear violence.

### Abolish NATO

NATO is the U.S.-organized, -commanded and -equipped military alliance. It is the force keeping the world in a capitalist straight jacket. It is a brutal military machine that holds more than 80 percent of the world's weapons.

Its voices filled with awe, the media have publicized NATO's high-tech bunker-busting bombs, nuclear weapons, Hellfire missiles fired from drones and its white phosphorous, napalm and cluster bombs stockpiled at 1,000 military bases around the world. NATO military command has waged wars for Wall Street, destroying the essentially civilian infrastructure in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Libya.

NATO conducts undeclared wars on Pakistan, Yemen and Syria, while threatening war on Iran and encircling Russia and China with a new generation of missiles. Both the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations have politically defended the deployment of targeted assassinations, secret renditions, kidnappings and torture.

We have to combat the corporate media's calculated hype that covers up the central role of violence here in the center of the U.S. global empire, a role that once led Black liberation leader H. Rap Brown (now Jamil Abdullah al-Amin) to comment: "Violence is as [U.S.] American as cherry pie." This high violence level — in comparison with that in other imperialist countries in Europe and Japan — is true even in statistics on domestic violence, violence in schools and individual assaults.

The domestic police force is larger in the U.S. than in any other country. The cops especially target youth of color and immigrants. Policies like "stop and frisk," racial profiling and SWAT teams breaking into homes are standard police practice. Round-ups and immigration raids terrorize millions of undocumented workers.

The U.S. jails far more people than any other country in the world. The institutionalized violence of the prison system — including strip searches, the humiliating rape of "cavity searches," solitary confinement, lock-downs and sensory deprivation against defenseless inmates — is legal and permitted.

Some 31 percent of women in the U.S. report physical or sexual assaults at some time in their lifetime. A 2001 report from UNICEF gives the U.S. the highest rate among the imperialist countries of deaths from child abuse or neglect. Violence against lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer people is pervasive.

The violence and insecurity of hunger, evictions, layoffs, lack of medical care are the daily experience of millions of people, especially people of color.

### The source of violence

Violence in the U.S. flows from the bosses' need to steal the workers' labor, the very basis of capitalist class society. Over 95 percent of U.S. laws involve protecting and defining property. It took years of struggle to win the few laws protecting basic human rights.

In the past, forcing the entire movement to pledge nonviolence has been a weapon to exclude those who have organized militant resistance and self-defense of their communities against overwhelming state repression, mass incarceration and neocolonial exploitation. This demand has labeled heroic movements in solidarity with Palestine, Lebanon or Colombia as violent. The state apparatus has arrested political supporters of these movements here in the U.S. and called them before grand juries.

Workers and peasants revolutions in the last century in Russia, China, Vietnam and Cuba have also been labeled violent and bloodthirsty. Those who label them conveniently forget the daily violence, the horrible oppression and the long murderous wars these movements had to overcome.

Building unity and solidarity with all oppressed people resisting around the world means standing up to the capitalist state and refusing to allow any part of the peoples movement to be isolated, demonized or its accomplishments distorted.

The organizations calling the demonstration in Chicago against NATO have already achieved a resounding success by standing strongly for unity and refusing to get swept into dividing the movement. This well-organized mass mobilization has put forth strong demands for an end to NATO wars and for funding for peoples needs. It has also shown the ability to defend the rights won in past struggles for assembly and free speech. This mass mobilization will provide new lessons and experience for the summer mobilizations during the Democratic and Republican National Conventions.

All out to Chicago on May 20!

*The writer is a member of Workers World Party's secretariat.*

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with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank, the Greek government is scheduled to make another $15 billion in budget cuts next month.

The two parties that alternated running the government since the 1970s — New Democracy, a center right party, and Pasok, a party that calls itself "socialist" — had jointly signed on to the agreements to make such drastic cuts in return for a $250 billion bailout. Their support imploded. New Democracy went from 33 percent of the vote in 2009 to less than 19 percent on Sunday; Pasok went from 44 percent of the vote to 13 percent. They do not have enough seats in parliament to form a government without partners, which they will be trying to find in the next few days.

According to the Guardian (May 7), the reaction of the IMF and other bailout providers was silence.

Support for Syriza, a left social democratic party that supports Greece remaining in the European Union, jumped to 17 percent; the Greek Communist Party (KKE), got 8.5 percent of the vote, increasing from 7 percent in 2009. A fascist party and some smaller left parties also improved their results. Seven parties will be represented in the new parliament.

Aleka Papariga, the general secretary of the Greek Communist Party, which calls for Greece leaving the EU and abandoning the euro, addressed the political situation at a huge rally the KKE held in Athens on May 3. She explained why her party would not ally with Syriza and try to form a government

"It is obvious that a coalition with other borrowed votes has one precondition: that the KKE cancel positions based on the solid experience of the past and the bleak capitalist present. In this way we will become very useful to the system, so that the people's movement can be curtailed and so that this government will have its hands free to compromise with and submit to Brussels, Washington, and above all to carry out the well known U-turns in Greece. ...

"We are not going to play this game because we do not want to kill the hopes of the people." She added that "the conflict with the EU is the only way as is the conflict with the monopolies in Greece."

The situation in Greece, both political and economic, is very fluid. The anger and desperation of its people are deep and the crisis of capitalism is rapidly ripening. □


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WORKERS WORLD editorial

# For those who dig

One of the most effective means of social control under capitalism is the threat of losing your job.

Sometimes it is subtle — the understanding every worker has that the job is not really theirs; it belongs to the boss. So everything you do while at your workplace has to please, or at the very least not antagonize, the agents of the boss.

This is especially true for workers who have to interact with the public. Are you feeling cranky or just unhappy, for whatever reason? Stow it. You must be cheerful, upbeat, smiling in order to please the customer. In many jobs, you will actually be given a script of what to say and told exactly how chirpingly to say it.

Maybe you feel upset because you're not getting paid enough, or you're working unpaid overtime, or you had to get up at a ghastly hour to get your kids to a sitter before commuting to your job, or you're getting a fever, or the supervisor treated you worse than dirt. You've got to swallow all that and put on a happy face. That, or they'll can you. With union membership at a low level, the chances that you can file a grievance are very small.

But what happens when this form of social control is no longer effective with people who have either lost their jobs or never been able to get one?

This is the situation for tens of millions of people in the United States. They are out from under the thumb of a boss. But this freedom from wage slavery is the freedom to lose your home, the freedom to shiver without heat or lights, the freedom to starve.

The latest employment statistics put out by the Department of Labor show that more and more people are enjoying this "freedom." You need to look at the figures twice to realize what they're actually saying. Fewer jobs are being created than the number of people who would normally be entering the workforce. But because so many people have never had a job or have despaired of finding one, they are not counted, so the workforce is technically "shrinking." Therefore, the official jobless figure remains at the same proportion — 8.2 percent.

It's all a bureaucratic way of making the job picture look better than it really is.

But it does mean there are millions of people out there not thinking about pleasing the boss at all, but thinking instead about what a rotten system this is and looking around to figure out what to do about it.

A lot of them are young, angry and ready to struggle against the 1% who have so blithely cast them on the scrapheap. They have been in the streets demonstrating. Or they have just been in the streets of their communities walking around, looking for friends to hang out with.

### Repression leads to greater anger

Since the ruling class can't threaten them with losing jobs they don't have, the word is out to tighten up on every form of repression before this angry generation can become more organized, more focused on fighting the system of capitalism.

The cops are told they must dismantle the Occupy encampments and bust a few heads as they arrest people in this young movement. The police do it because that's what they're paid to do: obey the orders of the 1%, which come down to them via a "justice" system that puts 2 million workers behind bars, half of them people of color, while letting the robber bankers, the corporate polluters and the war criminals free to jet around and work on their tans.

The cops are also told to maintain a heavy lid on the oppressed communities because they could be the first to explode. So they drive around like a bomb ready to go off, looking at every young person of color as a "suspicious character." Wallets, cell phones, even cans of soda are taken for weapons and a hail of police bullets follows. Sometimes it's not even cops, just wannabes who have adopted the police mentality.

Chicago. Albuquerque. Oakland. The Bronx. Sanford, Fla. The epidemic of police and wannabe killings of young people of color festers all over this country, from North to South, East to West. It is a grisly part of the fallout from the crisis of capitalism, in which the system has hit a wall of permanent unemployment and the ruling class is getting meaner and meaner, even as it becomes more hated.

But running counter to this grim picture is the spirit of optimism and combativeness of those who are using their "freedom" from working for the boss in order to organize and grow their political consciousness. They are pushing back the dark clouds of depression, economic and personal, and banding together to get at the root of the problem. This system is indeed creating the forces of its own destruction: the gravediggers of capitalism, as Karl Marx called the working class. And they're saying: "We dig." □


## AFRICA & IMPERIALISM

Articles by Abayomi Azikiwe
from the pages of Workers World

- Africa struggles against imperialism
- WikiLeaks on U.S. role in Africa
- Tunisian masses rebel
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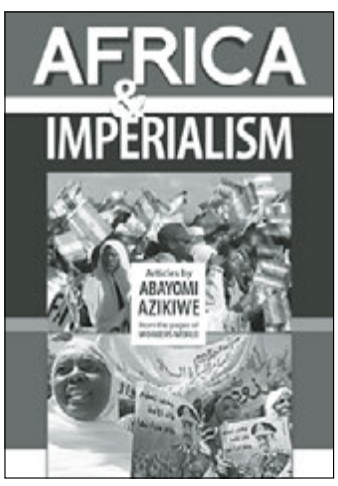



EGYPT

# Masses resist military repression

**By Abayomi Azikiwe**
**Editor, Pan-African News Wire**

Sign says "Down with military rule," Cairo, May 6.

As Egyptians prepare for the first round of national presidential elections on May 23-24, the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has enacted a series of repressive measures. Clashes between armed militias of supporters of the Islamist political parties killed up to 20 people on May 2 outside the Ministry of Defense in the Abbassiya District of Cairo. Many believe SCAF backs the militias.

On May 5, hundreds of Egyptian riot police fled Central Security Forces camps and blockaded a highway leading out of Cairo. These actions were said to be in response to reports that an officer had shot dead a conscript. Video footage obtained by the Agence France-Presse showed the CFS conscripts marching through the streets in civilian clothes denouncing the shooting of one of their colleagues. (May 7)

Military and riot police were dispatched to the area to break up the demonstration. CSF troops are poorly paid and are deployed to areas of unrest to contain mass demonstrations in the country where the political situation remains volatile. In 1986, a rebellion among CSF troops brought thousands into the streets in clashes that lasted several days.

The struggle within the security forces follows a series of events that have raised tensions, including those on May 2.

SCAF denied responsibility for the May 2 clashes and immediately ordered an interior ministry investigation. Many Egyptians, however, have said someone is manipulating events so as to continue military rule and demand postponement of upcoming presidential elections. The SCAF has said they will hand over power within 60 days of the elections and the creation of a new government.

During May 4 demonstrations against the military in Cairo, a soldier was killed and several hundred people were injured. On May 5, security forces arrested 300 people for interrogations that will last for 15 days.

The army also imposed an overnight curfew around the Ministry of Defense. Those held in the May 5 sweep face charges of assaulting army officers and soldiers as well as lesser charges. (Middle East Online, May 6)

The defense ministry protests targeted the disqualification of two leading Islamist presidential candidates, denying candidates for the Freedom and Justice Party and the Salafists the right to run. Khairat al-Shater of the FJP was accused of having a criminal record under the Hosni Mubarak regime It was said that the mother of Hazim Abu Ismail of the Salifist al-Nour Party held United States citizenship, which he denied.

The Salafist al-Nour Party has denied involvement in the sit-ins outside the defense ministry and has attempted to disassociate itself from Abu Ismail's disqualified candidacy. Al-Nour did denounce the May 2 clashes, saying that the SCAF is attempting to delay the presidential elections.

### The candidates & Egypt's political future

Twenty-three candidates initially filed to run for the presidency. On April 14, the Supreme Presidential Elections Committee announced the disqualification of ten candidates.

Mohammed Morsi, who is the official FPJ candidate, is so far trailing behind Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, an independent Muslim, in the polls. According to recent reports, Fotouh is being supported by the conservative Salafists al-Nour Party as well as the more moderate Al-Wasat.

Nonetheless, national polls indicate that Amr Moussa is the leading candidate for the presidency. The former Secretary General of the Arab League, Moussa was closely associated with the ousted government of Hosni Mubarak. In a survey conducted by Al-Ahram, 39 percent of prospective voters will support Moussa and 24 percent Fotouh. Morsi received only 7 percent in the poll. The survey was based on interviews with 1,200 people throughout the country.

Moussa has campaigned in the Suez Canal area and has pledged to create what he calls a new economic zone along the region as well as investing in neighboring Sinai, where the Bedouin sector is based. The Bedouins have long complained of being marginalized in Egyptian politics and economic development.

Moussa is aiming to win 50 percent in the first round — a formidable task. This would eliminate the run-off election on June 16-17. A run-off vote would likely set Moussa against an Islamist candidate, which could unite the religious constituency controlling about half of the parliament.

The backdrop to the elections also includes a major conflict between the Islamist-dominated parliament and the SCAF-appointed cabinet. The Islamists in parliament have attempted to dissolve the government in the lead-up to the presidential elections.

### Political economy & international relations

Despite Egypt's natural gas wealth, its national debt is exploding. The Egyptian government's indebtedness to international oil and gas companies is said to be at least $4 billion.

For years Egypt has purchased gas at international prices and sold it at subsidized rates in local markets. As as a result, the oil ministry is being compelled to renegotiate payments to foreign suppliers. Political unrest has also contributed to the decline in revenue in key sectors of the economy.

The U.S. ruling class is closely following the situation in Egypt, as are Israel and Saudi Arabia. Egypt is strategically located, with a population of 80 million people. Historically, it has been a trailblazer for political trends in other parts of Africa and the Middle East.

Egypt is the second largest recipient of direct foreign assistance from the U.S. The Pentagon supplies the military with more than $1 billion annually and holds joint military exercises with Egypt's army. Washington and Cairo exchange intelligence resources.

Recently the Egyptian government cancelled an agreement with Israel to supply natural gas after months of sabotage of the pipelines between the two countries.

These variables will have an impact on the elections and postelections processes. □

Struggle in China, Part 6

# Imperialism hails Chen, attacks Bo as Wall Street gains in China-U.S. talks

**By Fred Goldstein**

The capitalist media worldwide have given a resounding show of support for the cause of Chen Guangcheng, a sightless dissident activist and pawn of U.S. intelligence who was smuggled into the U.S. Embassy in Beijing on April 27.

This is in sharp contrast to the universal media condemnation of Bo Xilai, formerly the Communist Party of China's secretary for the provincial city of Chongqing, who was purged because of his left-wing challenge to the course of China's economic and social development.

Chen appeared in the U.S. Embassy on the eve of scheduled negotiations on economic and political matters between Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, on the one hand, and top Chinese government officials, on the other. Whether this was engineered by a Republican Party-oriented faction of the CIA to embarrass the Obama administration, or was a failed attempt by the Obama administration to make a showing in defense of so-called "human rights" in China, is hard to determine.

In any case, this carefully worked out plot to get Chen to the U.S. Embassy must be seen in light of the timely defection in early February by the police chief of Chongqing, Wang Lijun, to the U.S. Consulate/CIA station in Chengdu, in Sichuan province. Wang showed up at the consulate and handed over alleged evidence of crimes by Bo and his spouse, Gu Kailai, to U.S. officials. Wang's visit to the U.S. Consulate set the stage for the purge of Bo, who was at that time a strong candidate to become a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the CPC. In both these incidents, U.S. intelligence officials and diplomats were central to the events.

Chen's escape was carefully planned and orchestrated. It included a 300-mile drive to Beijing, safe houses and a closely choreographed transfer of Chen from the getaway car to a U.S. Embassy car, which then raced to the Marine compound inside the embassy. (New York Times, May 2) However the Chen affair was organized, it shows the underlying aggressiveness of Washington in its campaign to subvert the People's Republic of China.

While the purge of Bo has far greater significance than the case of Chen, the details of the Chen case are revealing. Chen is a sightless lawyer who brought a class action suit against the government opposing alleged forced abortion. The Chinese government policy seeks to limit the number of children a family can have to control population growth in order to ensure its ability to feed the 1.3 billion people already there. It is a complicated issue.

Whatever one's position on this, the fact is that counterrevolutionaries in China make it a practice of wrapping their anti-communism in popular grievances. Some are legitimate — like workers' rights and peasants' rights. Some are not — like bourgeois political reforms to empower the growing middle and upper classes who have prospered under the capitalist reforms. Whatever cause they take up, the goal is to undermine or destroy the institutions of Chinese socialism that have survived the capitalist reforms.

### A counterrevolutionary network

The issue here is that Chen is part of a counterrevolutionary network that conspired to get him to the U.S. Embassy. It swung into action, from Washington to Texas to North Carolina to New York University, in a coordinated effort to fan anti-China flames.

The cheerleaders for Chen include "Pastor" Bob Fu in Midland, Texas, who "found God" after being part of the failed attempt to overthrow Chinese socialism in 1989 during the Tiananmen Square counterrevolutionary uprising. He settled in Midland, surrounded by oil wells and cattle ranches, and founded the Christian "rights" group China Aid to reach out to other counterrevolutionaries inside China. In his office is a photo of George W. Bush posing with Chinese exiles. (Washington Post, May 2)

Fu turned up at a hearing of the House of Representatives' China Commission on May 3. The hearing was interrupted as Fu translated for national television a conversation between Chen and the chairperson of the commission, Christopher Smith, a Republican from New Jersey. Chen was telling Smith how "disappointed" he was in Hillary Clinton, among other things.

The Obama administration suffered another setback when Chen changed his mind about staying in China, saying he wanted to go into exile in the U.S. Chen held a phone conversation while in the hospital with his lawyer, Teng Biao, who allegedly talked him into changing his mind.

Teng Biao is a lawyer at the China University of Political Science and Law. He has been the legal representative for the anti-communist group Falun Gong and for pro-imperialist Tibetan separatists. Teng was also a signer of Charter 08 in December 2008. This document was modeled on the anti-Soviet Charter 77, a counterrevolutionary manifesto signed by Czechoslovakian reactionaries that helped pave the way for the destruction of socialism in Eastern Europe.

Charter 08 called for many bourgeois rights in China. Demand number 14 of the charter begins with the following: "Establish and protect private property rights, and implement a system based on a free and open market economy," including privatizing state enterprises and land. (foreignpolicy.com, Oct. 8, 2010)

NYU law professor Jerome Cohen, a long-time collaborator of Chen and the U.S. government, on signal from the State Department became Chen's U.S. legal adviser during the embassy events and extended an offer for Chen to study at NYU. Wang Dan, leader of the Tiananmen uprising, now in exile in California, wrote an op-ed piece for the New York Times welcoming Chen to exile in the U.S.

Boxun, a counterrevolutionary chat room run out of Durham, N.C., by Watson Meng, took up the cause. Meng tried to promote a "jasmine revolution" last February to start a Tunisian or Egyptian-style movement to overthrow the Chinese government. (Financial Times, April 22)

A true counterrevolutionary chorus sing the praises of of Chen reverberated from one end of the capitalist media to the other, inspired and led by the baton of the CIA and U.S. imperialism.

### Clinton, Geithner & Wall Street

Alongside political subversion was the even more important pressure brought to bear by Clinton and Geithner in the annual U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue. Geithner opened up the talks with an arrogant lecture: "China must rely more on domestic consumption rather than exports, and more on innovation by private companies rather than capacity expansion by state-owned enterprises." (New York Times, May 4)

The U.S. delegation came with a plan for China to improve the "safety net" for the Chinese people and to build a consumer society: China should "rebalance" its economy and not rely on national development projects and exports. China should raise the value of its currency and allow more competition. It should reduce subsidies to the state-owned corporations and give private capital a better chance. State-owned enterprises should pay more dividends to the government to finance the safety net to ensure that people would spend more money.

In these demands, the predatory interests of Wall Street are couched in soothing words about improving the lives of the Chinese people. But the fact is — as the Chinese leaders know full well — the imperialist corporations are facing a world capitalist crisis and are desperate for markets, not only to utilize their overcapacity in the production of commodities but to expand their areas of capital investment.

The pressure to further open up the Chinese market is growing more intense with every report about the growing recessionary tide in Europe and the economic slowdowns in India, Brazil, Russia and throughout the world capitalist system. Capitalism is slowly buckling under the weight of its own productivity and the consequent stresses of overproduction.

### Concessions on investment

Washington got agreement from the Chinese negotiators at the meeting to allow foreign firms to take up to a 49 percent stake in joint securities ventures. A hefty increase from the current limit of 33 percent, this gives American financial firms greater ability to invest in the country. China also agreed to make it easier for American firms to offer financing for auto loans. This permits U.S. finance capital to take more wealth out of China and to wield greater financial influence in the markets.

This is a Chinese concession to the urgent pressure of U.S. bankers and brokers to find new sources of profitable, secure financial investment, which is being called into question every day as the global debt crisis deepens.

The struggle over exchange rates seems to have ended in pretty much of a stalemate. The Chinese made soft, verbal promises to consider many of the measures put forward by the U.S. delegation. The U.S. side then emphasized in their briefings with the media that a new conciliatory mood existed among the Chinese negotiators. Whether or not the U.S. was spinning the talks is hard to say.

To be sure, the head of China's central bank, Zhou Xiaochuan, said that the two countries agreed that exchange rates should ultimately be market-determined. "The two sides have some views in common. They both think that exchange rates should be determined by a market system." (New York Times, May 4)

Zhou is in the right-wing reform camp, along with Premier Wen Jiabao, who has vowed to carry forward political and economic reform. But all these soft concessions can be pushed back by resistance from within the rest of the party, from the state enterprises, the state banks and the planning apparatus.

The concessionary attitude of the Chinese leaders, in spite of the political sabotage by Washington in the Chen case, cannot be separated from the victory over Bo Xilai and the massive campaign of political intimidation against the party grouping in China that wants to halt, if not reverse, the course toward further market reforms.

That is why the U.S. ruling class during these negotiations wanted to quickly take advantage of the political momentum to the right and get as many concessions as possible from the present leadership, before they retire and the tide turns against the new incursions of capital.

But all these leaders are looking over their shoulders. There is palpable anxiety among them that the attack on Bo could eventually backfire and openly pose the question of which direction China should take — further toward capitalism or back toward strengthening socialism. What they all dread is the day that the Chinese working class takes up the struggle to revive the political role of the working class in building socialism, as it existed during the era of Mao Zedong.

*To be continued.*

*Goldstein is the author of "Low-Wage Capitalism" and "Capitalism at a Dead End." More information is available at www.lowwagecapitalism.com. The author can be reached at fgoldstein@workers.org.*

MUNDO OBRERO

# Acusaciones de corrupción

*Continua de página 12*

vos que han surgido en la sociedad china no podrán ser resueltos fundamentalmente y tales tragedias históricas como la Revolución Cultural [1966 - 1976] pueden pasar de nuevo en China". (UPI.com, 15 de marzo)

Wen dijo que se había dirigido al tema de la reforma estructural política en China en muchas ocasiones en los últimos años, dando sus opiniones completas y con detalles sobre la cuestión. Dijo que su interés por largo tiempo en las reformas políticas surgió de "un fuerte sentido de responsabilidad".

Durante el mes pasado, la cuestión de un regreso a la Revolución Cultural y la restauración de Mao han desaparecido del discurso. El tema se ha cambiado a la corrupción. De hecho, un mes más tarde, el 14 de abril, Wen escribió un artículo para la publicación Qiushi del Comité Central, llamando a una campaña contra la corrupción y revelando las identidades de los corruptos.

La lucha se abrió contra la Revolución Cultural pero se ha cambiado a una en contra de la corrupción. Aunque todo el mundo debería querer extirpar la corrupción, esta campaña huele a miedo de hablar de la Revolución Cultural en particular y del maoísmo en general como cuestiones para ser debatidas, especialmente frente a las masas. Puede que ellas quieran alinearse con la renovación de valores socialistas y echar un vistazo al rol que pueden y deben desempeñar los/as trabajadores/as en formar y revivir el socialismo y la sociedad china. □

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LUCHA EN CHINA, PARTE 4

# Acusaciones de corrupción contra Bo Xilai – una cortina de humo mientras la derecha pasa a la ofensiva

**Por Fred Goldstein**

La campaña de desprestigio para destruir a Bo Xilai es un intento de los máximos dirigentes del Partido Comunista de China para poner una cortina de humo y ocultar una lucha política de derechas e izquierdas sobre la creciente penetración económica y política del capitalismo en la cúpula de la sociedad China.

Bo ha sido acusado de violaciones a la disciplina. Están previstas acusaciones de corrupción contra él. Su cónyuge, Gu Kailai, está siendo investigada en relación con la muerte del empresario británico Neil Heywood.

Un editorial de primera plana apareció en el Diario del Pueblo del 12 de abril y reproducido en todos los medios de comunicación chinos. Llamando a la población "a mantener un alto nivel de unidad ideológica con el Comité Central, con Hu como secretario general, y mantener en alto la gran bandera del socialismo con características chinas".

Agrega el editorial, "Debemos esforzarnos en salvaguardar la situación favorable respecto a la reforma, el desarrollo y la estabilidad de China, hacer nuevos logros en la construcción de una sociedad moderadamente próspera en todos los aspectos y acelerar la modernización socialista, y así dar la bienvenida al XVIII Congreso Nacional del PCC".

Esto fue seguido por una avalancha de acusaciones, insinuaciones y supuestas revelaciones de corrupción por Gu Kailai.

Lo que está claro sobre este ataque sin precedentes es que a los máximos dirigentes del PCC les aterroriza el tener un debate político e ideológico sobre el rumbo futuro de China, ya sea en el Comité Central o frente al pueblo. El modelo de Chongqing de Bo Xilai — de elevar el nivel de vida y beneficios sociales de los/as trabajadores/as y campesinos/as y revivir la cultura maoísta —es la verdadera razón.

Las facciones reformistas capitalistas en el liderazgo se confrontaron con la propagación de la popularidad del modelo de Bo y su énfasis en los "valores socialistas", junto a su ofensiva contra los oficiales y funcionarios corruptos del Gobierno y los empresarios en liga con elementos criminales. Esto le valió una gran cantidad de enemigos.

Un experto de China ha resumido el caso: "Es sobre reformar o no reformar", dijo Zheng Yongnian, quien dirige el East Asia Institute en la Universidad Nacional de Singapur. (New York Times, 21 de marzo)

### China enfrenta cuestión monumental

Éste es el problema subyacente de la actual campaña de aniquilación política. El liderazgo ha elegido el rumbo de evadir el tema monumental que enfrenta China: si va a tomar más pasos hacia una completa restauración del capitalismo, o mantener la línea y tratar de reparar algunos de los daños causados a las masas y al sistema socialista por dar rienda suelta al capitalismo durante más de 30 años. Estas son cuestiones de suma importancia para los/as trabajadores/as y campesinos/as chinos/as y para toda la clase trabajadora del mundo.

Sin embargo, el liderazgo del PCC ha reducido la lucha — que está entre Bo Xilai y quienes están dentro de su corriente política por un lado, y por otro la facción liderada por el saliente primer ministro Wen Jiabao quien insta a una "mayor apertura y reforma" — a la cuestión estrecha de la corrupción. Al hacerlo, han barrido bajo la alfombra la agenda de la derecha, los Gorbachevs de China.

### El programa de la derecha

Esa agenda incluye menoscabar los bancos y empresas estatales, integrar más a los bancos de China al sistema financiero capitalista mundial, desatando aún más el poder financiero del capital privado, empujando una forma de democracia burguesa y permitiendo a los elementos burgueses mayor autoridad dentro del estado.

El establecimiento imperialista mundial sabe lo que está en juego en China.

El sistema capitalista mundial está respirando con dificultad, tratando de mantenerse a flote mientras lucha infructuosamente para salir de la gran crisis que comenzó en 2007. Fue la caída de la URSS y Europa Oriental en 1989-1991 que dio al tambaleante sistema capitalista un respiro. Justo cuando la primera recuperación sin empleos en los EEUU en 1991-1992 iba arrastrando a los/as trabajadores y al sistema, el colapso de la URSS les permitió 17 años más de expansión económica.

Hoy la burguesía mundial mira ansiosamente hacia China con esperanzas similares. Pero no sólo mira. Está trabajando horas extras para profundizar la transformación de China en un estado capitalista. El sistema capitalista mundial ha estado tambaleándose al borde de una crisis renovada desde la llamada "recuperación" en 2009. El sistema está plagado de un exceso de capital, insuficientes mercados y sobreproducción perenne. Como lo ve el capital financiero, un aumento en China serviría para traer enormes beneficios al sistema capitalista mundial y aliviar su crisis.

La clase gobernante capitalista está usando todas sus armas en este momento crítico de cambio en el liderazgo del PCC. Bo Xilai, quien estaba programado para convertirse en miembro del Comité Permanente del Politburó, se encontraba en su camino.

En un artículo anterior, nos referimos a un informe emitido por el Banco Mundial llamado "China 2030". Fue coescrito por el Centro de Investigación del Desarrollo (CID), un órgano del Consejo de Estado de China.

Un comentario sobre el informe escrito en The Economist del 28 de febrero observó: "el CID es una influyente organización que suministra asesoramiento político al Gobierno. También estuvo involucrado el Ministerio de Hacienda. Un Viceprimer Ministro, Li Keqiang, que se espera asuma como primer ministro después de Wen Jiabao el próximo año, parece haber desempeñado un papel activo en la organización de esta cooperación entre la burocracia y el Banco".

Como el mismo Banco Mundial observó en un comunicado de prensa el 27 de febrero: "El reporte aboga por que el Gobierno redefina su papel — de centrarse más en los sistemas, reglas y leyes — para aumentar la eficiencia en la producción, promover la competencia y reducir los riesgos. Recomienda una redefinición de los papeles de las empresas estatales y romper los monopolios en ciertas industrias, diversificando la propiedad, disminuyendo las barreras de entrada de las empresas privadas y facilitando el acceso a la financiación a pequeñas y medianas empresas.

"Las reformas deberían incluir el comercializar el sistema bancario, eliminando gradualmente los controles de tasa de interés, profundizar el mercado de capitales y desarrollar organismos reguladores independientes y fuertes para apoyar la eventual integración del sector financiero de China en el sistema financiero mundial. Las reformas financieras en las próximas dos décadas deben ser decisivas, amplias y bien coordinadas, siguiendo un plan debidamente secuenciado. Una prioridad es liberalizar los tipos de interés de acuerdo con los principios del mercado".

### Hoja de ruta para la contrarrevolución

Este es el llamado plan de "reforma" que conduce directamente a la contrarrevolución capitalista a gran escala.

No es de sorprender que la prensa capitalista mundial se haya convertido en un participante entusiasta en la lucha contra Bo. El *New York Times*, el *Washington Post* y el *Wall Street Journal* llevan historias detalladas de cada acusación contra Bo, Gu, y su hijo. Ha que tener en cuenta que los procesos judiciales, el flujo de información y control de los medios de comunicación en China están totalmente en manos de un grupo de autoridades políticamente hostiles a Bo. Están empeñados en su destrucción por su oposición a la profundización del papel del mercado capitalista en los altos mandos de la economía China. Sin embargo, cada acusación, cada chisme, cada insinuación y cargos sin evidencia se repite textualmente por los portavoces del capitalismo mundial.

Cualquiera que sean los hechos en el caso de Bo, si acaso se conocerían, nada puede anular el hecho de que la corrupción y los privilegios están generalizados en China al más alto nivel. Los/as hijos/as de los funcionarios con los rangos más altos del Partido han sido educados/as en prestigiosas instituciones occidentales desde el comienzo de la era de Deng Xiaoping. Otros funcionarios del Partido se han beneficiado personalmente del desarrollo económico. Dar rienda suelta a una muy publicitada campaña nacional contra la "corrupción", como se hace en el caso de Bo y Gu, es totalmente arbitraria y con motivos políticos en un momento crucial de un cambio en el liderazgo y el próximo XVIII Congreso del Partido.

El New York Times del 12 de abril admitió: "La divulgación de las acusaciones contra los Bo fue cuidadosamente escrita y con fecha precisa, para prescindir del Sr. Bo en antelación a una rotación prevista de líderes comunistas y el XVIII Congreso del Partido este otoño".

Ostensiblemente ausente en los medios masivos capitalistas está cualquier crítica de "las medidas autoritarias" que los escribientes de la clase dominante utilizan rápidamente cuando perciben un ataque contra uno de sus aliados en China. Ni una palabra sobre "la libertad de prensa" como resultado de los ataques orquestados contra Bo y Gu que han cubierto los medios. Ni una palabra de indignación sobre "censura" cuando las autoridades del PCC admitieron que habían cerrado 42 sitios de la Red y censuraron 210.000 comentarios en la Red sobre este caso desde mediados de marzo. (New York Times, 14 de abril). Las autoridades no han permitido que el nombre de Bo o cualquier cosa relacionada con él aparezcan en la Red.

Los grandes promovedores en Washington y Wall Street de la "democracia" en Siria, Libia, Irán, la República Democrática Popular de Corea, y dondequiera que ellos quieren derrocar al gobierno, no tienen nada que decir sobre los "derechos democráticos" de Bo y sus seguidores para que les oiga el pueblo chino.

¿Dónde están las voces piadosas de las organizaciones de "derechos humanos", quienes protestan ruidosamente cuando algún disidente burgués que quiere extirpar al comunismo de raíz está atacado o castigado por las autoridades chinas?

¿Dónde están las organizaciones pro derechos de trabajadores/as que, bien intencionadas o no, debían estar en un bloque con la facción de Bo contra la derecha? Después de todo, como secretario del Partido en Chongqing, Bo luchó por aliviar las difíciles condiciones que habían sido impuestas a los/as trabajadores/as y campesinos/as por el crecimiento económico ligado al desarrollo del mercado capitalista.

Sin duda, Bo no estaba opuesto a las relaciones capitalistas en principio; él ha sido seguidor del llamado modelo "socialismo de mercado". Pero su impulso de expandir los beneficios económicos y sociales de trabajadores/as y campesinos/as y su impulso de los "valores socialistas" les favorecía, comparados al programa reaccionario de dejar prevalecer el mercado capitalista, una posición sostenida por Wen Jiabao y los detractores de Bo.

Wen Jiabao parece ser el arquitecto de la campaña contra Bo. Trataremos de la cuestión de sus orígenes políticos y su alineación en la lucha política en China otro día. Basta decir ahora que su historia política incluye muestras de simpatía por el alzamiento contrarrevolucionario en Tiananmen Square en 1989.

Wen comenzó su ataque público contra Bo en la que supuestamente era su última conferencia pública de prensa el 14 de marzo, un día antes del anuncio del retiro de Bo y después del cierre del Congreso Nacional del Pueblo. Wen avisó que "las reformas en China han llegado a una etapa crítica . . . Sin reforma política exitosa, es imposible que China instituya completamente la reforma económica y los conquistas que hemos tenido en estos campos pueden perderse, y los problemas nue-

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